

## **FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

**Meeting Date:** November 17, 2016

**Agenda Item:** Barges/House Boats on Flathead Lake Petition Denial (R1)

**Division:** Enforcement

**Action Needed:** Informational

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 5 Minutes

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### **Background:**

James Thompson submitted a petition requesting regulation of barges/house boats on Flathead Lake, and specifically, regulation of the amount of time that the barges/house boats may be anchored in the same location. Under current law, the Commission does not have the authority to make rules to regulate floating houses or limit the amount of time that a boat may be anchored in water. Pursuant to authority granted by specific statutes, the Commission can make rules regulating noise and other restrictions on boating, but the changes in this petition involve the larger issue of individuals anchoring boats, barges, and house boats, and commercial activities regarding some of these house boats, for which the Commission does not have regulatory authority.